

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

A CLINICAL TEXT-BOOK OF MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS for Physicians and Students, Based on the Most Recent Methods of Examination. By **OSWALD VIERORDT, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine at the University of Heidelberg. Translated from the Second Improved and Enlarged German Edition, with Additions, by **Francis H. Stuart, A M., M.D.**, of Brooklyn. With One Hundred and Seventy-Eight Illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1891. St. Louis: J. H. Chambers & Co.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS with Special Reference to Practical Medicine. A Guide to the Knowledge and Discrimination of Diseases. By **J. M. DA COSTA, M.D., LL. D.**, Professor of Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Illustrated with Engravings on Wood. Seventh Edition, Revised. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1890. St. Louis: J. H. Chambers & Co.

The work of Dr. Vierordt is a well arranged volume of 700 pages. It is devoted especially to the methods of examination of the various organs and systems of the human body. The chapters have such headings as "Examination of the Circulatory Apparatus," "Examination of the Digestive Apparatus," "Examination of the Nervous System." Under each chapter are the numerous subdivisions. Pains is taken to emphasize the fact, that, besides the use of instruments of precision and finer methods of diagnosis, the unaided senses, especially the eye, must not be forgotten. Means of diagnosis without the aid of the microscope and reagents are dwelt upon, yet the matters of finer diagnosis are not ignored. The most approved tests are given for the detection of the various pathognomonic bacteria.

A conspicuous feature of the work is that many of the statements lack pertinence. The author tells us certain things are so, or that certain conditions may exist, without stating to what these signs point, or without drawing any conclusions therefrom. These observations are frequently made concerning well-known facts, so that they seem quite superfluous.

Praise is due to Dr. Stuart for the excellent translation which he has made, and for the valuable notes and comments with which he has interspersed the work. The elaborate index, which comprises a reference to every statement of importance, contributes to increase the value of the book. The author, in his preface to the English edition, expresses his thanks to Dr. Stuart for the translation.

The volume is well illustrated. Many of the plates are colored, and are very beautiful.

Dr. Da Costa's work, which has been translated into Russian, French and German, of which a second German edition has recently been issued, and which now appears thoroughly revised in its seventh American edition, needs no introduction to the medical profession. The methods of classification and arrangement differ materially from the German work. The physical signs are treated of under the heads of the various diseases, under which are given the diagnostic symptoms of the disease, special attention being paid to the differential diagnostic points. The system of parallel comparison of symptoms of diseases which simulate one another is made use of to a considerable extent. Under such headings as "Acute Affections in which Delirium is a Prominent Symptom," "Disorders in which Little or no Urine is Discharged," "General Abdominal Enlargement," "Partial Abdominal Enlargement," etc., are given clearly the chief diagnostic features of the various diseases which come under these heads. The remarks on "Diseases Attended with Tenderness and Pain in the Right Iliac Fossa" are surgically sound, excepting, perhaps, a too free use of the terms "typhlitis" and "perityphlitis."

It is evident that the author of this work has had a broader experience in the field of medical diagnosis than has the author of the German work. The former has produced a book containing a much

larger amount of practical information. He tells us not only of symptoms, but to what the symptoms point. He describes the morbid manifestations which may be observed in connection with the different organs, and tells what pathological states these signs indicate. The first dwells more on diseases; the latter on symptoms.

Dr. Da Costa's work contains a section on the diagnosis of skin diseases which the other does not. Hæmoptysis is fully considered by him, whereas the recent work gives this important sign but little space. The surgical diseases are fairly handled; the differential diagnosis of thoracic aneurism is deserving of the highest notice. But to mention the chapters especially noteworthy would be to produce a list quite identical with the table of contents.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.